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# FIRE GUARD

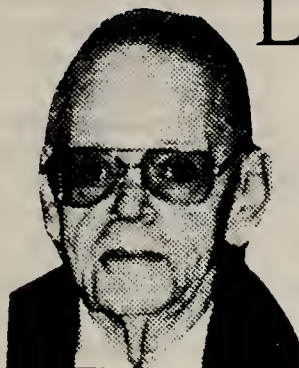
Emergency Services Newsletter

Number 52 July 1991

PLEASE REPLY



## Two Fire Service Leaders Pass Away

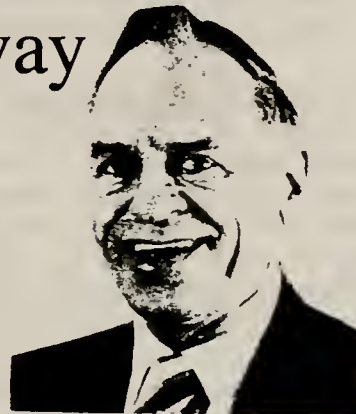


John T. Horn died at a local nursing home in Great Falls on June 2. John worked for the Fire Training School, was a sheriff in Lincoln County, served as Chief with the Libby Fire Department. He was active in many fire organizations and was well known by hundreds of Montana fire fighters. The Libby Fire Department assisted in a fire department funeral.

STATE DOCUMENTS COLLECTION

JUL 10 1991

MONTANA STATE LIBRARY  
1515 E. 6th AVE.  
HELENA, MONTANA 59620



Richard E. Manning passed away in Great Falls on May 26. Richard was a retired fire fighter from the Great Falls Fire Department, and long time secretary of the Montana State Fireman's Association. He served two terms as a State Representative and was in his 3rd term in the Montana Senate.

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MSUES FIRE TRAINING SCHOOL  
2100 16th Avenue South  
Great Falls 59405-4997 761-7885

FIRE PREV. & INVESTIG. BUREAU  
303 North Roberts Room 371  
Helena 59620 444-2050

DEPARTMENT OF STATE LANDS  
2705 Spurgin Road  
Missoula 59801 542-4300



## HOUSE BILL 809 AND 896 WHAT DO THEY DO FOR THE FIRE PREVENTION AND INVESTIGATION BUREAU?

Rich Levandowski

Another legislative session is over and now we have a better picture of what the future holds for the Fire Prevention and Investigation Bureau.

The two main bills which have impacted the bureau are HB809, "The Tax Bill" and HB896, "The Revisions (modernization) Bill".

HB809 was originally introduced to increase the tax portion on fire insurance premiums from 3/4 of one percent to 1 1/2 per cent. This would have meant an increase in insurance cost to the average property owner of fifty cents a year. This was previously addressed under 50-3-109 MCA for "maintenance of the fire marshal bureau".

We all know that over the years this collected amount was not being entirely utilized by the bureau; instead, a portion of it was going into the general fund.

HB809 passed the legislature at a 1 percent revision figure thereby dedicating the assistance of 1/4 of one percent for bureau operation. That portion of the 3/4 of one percent that was being utilized by the general fund will continue as in the past. As a result, instead of the originally hoped for additional 16 full-time employees, we ended up with authorization for 6 people.....however, the legislature allotted from the general fund only enough funds to add 3.5 staff.

How are we going to utilize 3.5 new FTEs? That is a question and before it can be answered, we must see what HB896 did for us.

This bill, referred to as the "modernization bill", has taken us, in most cases, from 1929-1947 statutes and brought us into 1991. This was done after very serious consideration to

existing law pertaining to bureau responsibilities.

The first major change is in our name: we are no longer the Fire Marshal Bureau. We are now the **Fire Prevention and Investigation Bureau** of the Department of Justice. By this change it should be apparent that, in the future, our primary responsibility as called for in the statute will be fire prevention through fire inspections and code enforcement. The attitude is, "the simplest way to put out a fire is to prevent it from starting in the first place". This is most successful if an effective inspection/code enforcement plan is put in place.

Next, you can see that the fire investigation function of the bureau has been slightly modified. 50-63-203 MCA now reads, in simple terms, that we are responsible for determining cause and origin only. It goes on to say, "if the fire appears suspicious, if there was a loss of human life, or if it determined that a criminal investigation is necessary, the official responsible for the investigation shall notify the Department of Justice and the appropriate law enforcement agency within 24 hours and shall file a written report of the cause with the department within 10 days."

This basically means that accidental fires may have cause and origin determined, reports filed and the case closed. On the other hand, suspicious and incendiary fires, once cause has been determined, will be turned over to the local police or sheriff's department or the state Criminal Investigation Bureau for follow-up.

This decision is based on two primary considerations: A) criminal pursuit is a function of law enforcement and, B) with the lack of adequate bureau manpower, neither responsibility, investigation nor inspection were being allotted the necessary amount of time to do the job properly. Thus, fire investigations determined to be suspicious or incendiary will be handled by law enforcement agencies.

One other major change in this modification of 50-61-114 MCA, called for fire chiefs and county sheriffs to make inspections. It went on to indicate these persons were required to A) enter into all school buildings once each 12 months, and B) enter into all other buildings once every 18 months. This has been modified to read, "Fire chief and fire inspector to make inspections. The chief of the fire department





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of each municipality or district when a fire inspection program is established or a fire inspector of the department of justice when no fire inspection program exists, for the purpose of examining the premises for violations of this chapter and rules adopted under 50-3-103 MCA for the enforcement of this chapter: (1) shall enter into school buildings at least once each 12 months; and (2) may enter into all other buildings and upon all other premises within his jurisdiction, according to priority schedules established by the department for conducting inspections of buildings and premises."

This change, first of all, relieves the sheriffs from any further inspection responsibility. Next it removes the 18 month requirement for inspection of all other buildings. In addition, it no longer says, "shall"; instead, it says "may". "Shall" pertains only to schools.

Somewhat related to the above is the modification to 50-61-102(2) which is a new section of the statute, which says, "Upon its (Department of Justice, Fire Prevention and Investigation Bureau) approval of a fire code and a plan for enforcement of the code filed by a municipality or district, the department may certify a municipal or district fire inspection program for local enforcement."

This is similar to the Building Codes Bureau program. If a city or local jurisdiction adopts the Building Code, the state building code people do not have any jurisdiction within that municipality or district unless the local jurisdiction is not properly enforcing the building requirements. The Building Codes Bureau acts, instead, as a resource for code interpretation. The Fire Prevention and Investigation Bureau will work in a similar fashion.

There are numerous other changes within HB896 but I believe we have covered the major impact items.

What about the 3.5 employees we mentioned earlier? Well, that is still undetermined. With all of our current needs, it is very difficult to determine a starting point. I have submitted my recommendations to the Attorney General and have discussed them with him and his staff but, as of this writing, nothing has been confirmed. I will try to keep you all posted in the future.

I strongly hope and pray that every fire official in this state will get on the "mod-

wagon" and make a concerted effort to make these programs work. Not only will firefighters benefit by these programs, but the general public will be the real benefactors of a fire safe environment.

Hopefully, I will be able to provide you with more information in the next edition of the Fire Guard and detail the impact of the inspection program in both municipal and rural areas.

## MONTANA FIRE INCIDENT REPORTING SYSTEM

Anita L. Varone

The last two years, 1989 and 1990 have been extremely successful for the reporting system. For the first time in the history of Montana's participation in the federal program, and two years consecutively, we have won a special honor for timeliness of data. That has been possible only through your efforts and response. The integrity of the data has also improved and the real 'picture' of Montana's fire problems are beginning to emerge.

1991 may be somewhat different. For the last year we have experienced significant problems with our computer system. The data processing staff valiantly kept the equipment functional to enable us to complete 1990 data entry. Finally, in late April the computer failed and could not be repaired. We only recently were able to order a replacement machine.

As a result, it will probably be mid to late July before actual entry into the new system will be possible. We are still logging and reviewing all hard-copy incidents and returning them for completion or correction. As soon as we are up and running we will be able to begin entering 1991 information. We also will be able to edit and enter those that report on disk.

Because of the down-time and other unanticipated factors, the Annual Report will also be late. Reports on the system will be rerun before actual statistics are used. We apologize to all of you for any inconvenience that may result and will keep you informed of the progress as it develops.

## CODING QUESTIONS

Anita L. Varone

Questions are often asked regarding the TYPE OF SITUATION FOUND (TSF) category when a brush/grass fire is involved. To assist in determining when to use TSF code 14 (Trees, brush, grass fire), or codes 56 (Unauthorized burning) or 63 (Controlled burning), you have to decide if the fire was a friendly fire or a hostile fire. If the fire was a hostile fire, the TSF to use would be 14. If the fire occurs when an individual is burning brush, cooking or outdoors and the fire is under control, then it is a friendly fire and you would use TSF 63 or 56, whichever is appropriate to the situation.

Following is a list of definitions that may help explain a little further:

### FRIENDLY FIRE

A fire which is under control, been approved by authorities that control outdoor burning and is consuming material to be burned.

### HOSTILE FIRE

A fire which is destructive, causing damage to property and is out of control. A person who burns trash allowing the fire to escape from a container or controlled area becoming an uncontrolled fire is a hostile fire.

### CONTROLLED BURNING

A friendly fire that has been authorized by local authorities and is being monitored by the property owner.

### UNAUTHORIZED BURNING

A friendly fire that was not approved by local authorities or is in violation of existing laws or ordinances.

## SERVICING HALON SYSTEMS

Richard Levandowski

It has recently been brought to our attention that a problem exists in regard to the servicing of fixed halon fire suppression systems.

In accordance with 50-39-101 MCA, in part, "a natural person must obtain a certificate of registration from the state fire marshal prior to servicing or installing of fire extinguisher, fire alarm systems, or fire extinguishing systems."

This statute indicates that a natural person shall obtain a certificate of registration to service or install:

1. Fire extinguisher E-1 or E-2 of R designation.
2. Fire alarm systems A-2 or A-3 C of R designation, and
3. Fire extinguishing systems E-3 C of R designation

Fixed Halon fire suppression systems consist of two primary components:

1. The suppression system, i.e., the agent storage cylinder, piping and nozzles, and
2. The system activation units, usually in the form of heat detectors.

As such, each installation is made up of a fire alarm system and a fire extinguishing system.

As a result, this means that a person servicing a fixed Halon fire suppression system should have two (2) designations on his certificate of registration, i.e., E-3 and A-2. If these two designations are not shown on their certificate of registration, they are not certified to perform the functions necessary to service the system.

Fire officials, as well as property owners with fixed halon suppression systems, should be aware of these requirements in order for systems to be properly serviced. Because the Fire Prevention and Investigation Bureau does not have a list of the firms providing this service to the public, we are asking each fire official to notify the firms within their respective jurisdictions.

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

## COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER FIRE PREVENTION GRANT

Anita L. Varone

We recently applied for a second year community volunteer fire prevention grant, through the National Criminal Justice Association. Last year two programs were produced, one in Helena and one in Fort Belknap.

Should the grant be approved, Lewistown will develop a county-wide program and Fort Belknap will complete an extensive program that began in fiscal year 91.

## HOOD/FIRE SUPPRESSION SYSTEMS - PROTECTION -

Rich Levandowski

A recent inspection and several recent inquiries and complaints prompts this article for clarification in regard to hood fire suppression systems.

Uniform Fire Code, Section 10.314, 1985 edition says, "approved fire-suppressions systems shall be provided for the protection of commercial-type food heat processing equipment". The exception in this section contains several key words; i.e., "as used does not create grease-laden vapors".

What this section says is that any place that performs commercial cooking and produces grease-laden vapors shall install an approved hood and suppression system.

Hoods are regulated by the Mechanical Code and enforced by the Mechanical Inspector whether it be state or local. Fire suppression systems are enforced by the Fire Prevention and Investigation Bureau or the local fire official.

Quite some time ago the issue of enclosed (usually chicken) deep fat fryers, 'henny-pennys' surfaced. Apparently it is time to reiterate fire marshal Bob Kelly's letter dated March 28, 1983.

Question - Is a broaster, such as a 'henny-penny', a fat fryer?

Answer - "Yes, any commercial cooking equipment, whether open or closed (pressure cooker) using oil or grease, must be located under an approved hood and provided with a fire suppression system with connection to fuel and/or current shut-offs."

This interpretation still stands. Apparently one firm, doing business in Montana, is advising customers and owners that hoods and systems are not required. **THIS IS NOT THE CASE.**

Should any fire official discover the installation of 'Flavor-Crisp' chicken deep-fat fryers, or any other brand of chicken pressure cooker which uses oil or grease, you should notify the property owner that a hood and suppression system are required in accordance with the UFC and UMC.

'Flavor-Crisp' and 'Chester-fry', among others, do manufacture units with hoods and systems in a complete unit. They may some

time be referred to as ductless venting units. These are tentatively approved for installation in Montana.

However, some NAVM members have posed specific problems with these units had have strongly suggested they be completely installed under an additional hood and suppression system, if permitted at all. These units are NFPA-96 approved, but this approval by the standards council overruled the technical committee who was not in favor of approval. This subject is still being negotiated.

In conclusion, as a fire official, if you should discover any of these non-hooded or non-protected cookers, please notify the property owner. If results cannot be obtained, contact your area Deputy State Fire Marshal.

## FAED CONFERENCE CENTRAL WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

Central Washington University will be facilitating the Washington State Association of Fire Chiefs, Inc., Fire Apparatus and Equipment Division conference. They have invited the Montana firefighters to attend this excellent training session. Following is an example of the course offerings; the list is not complete. For further information contact Deirdre Africa, Continuing Education, 402 Barge Hall, Ellensburg, Wash. 98926, (509) 963-1504.

**September 9, 1991** - Computers: the basics - Specs for weight and axles per NFPA 1900 - Pump I: Theory - Electricity I - Diesel: Adv. Detroit - Maintenance Program Devel. - Conflict Negotiations

**September 10, 1991** - Computers: Applications - Firefighter Apparatus Maint. - Fabrication & Welding - Pump: Hale - Pump: Darley - Electricity II

**September 11** - NFPA Pump Testing - Fluid Power (Adv. Hydraulics & Pneumatics) - Nozzles & Valves - Intro to Computer Engine Controls - Effective Communications - Allison Transmission

**September 12** - Electricity III - Hydraulic/Air Brakes - Aerial & Ground Ladder Testing & NFPA Standards - Small Engines - Diesel: Adv. Cummins



# Sidney F.D. Combats Arson

by Alan Lorenz

An alarm sounded at 7:20 pm on February 4, 1985. Dispatch said it was an unoccupied structural fire. Fire fighters approaching the fire scene could see flames darting out of the rear windows and through the roof. The fire was quickly knocked down. This was a small house and the inside was open because it was being remodeled. The owner of the house, also a local building contractor, was summoned to the scene. He said he had just left for dinner. The cause of the fire was a propane heater commonly used in construction. Because the contractor was well known and respected in the community, it was determined the fire was an accident. Two hours after mop up fire fighters were called back for a rekindle. Or was it?

On January 17, 1988 the alarm sounded at 4:30 am. There was a fire in a two story apartment that was being remodeled. Fire cause was not determined, but it was located near the furnace, in the basement, and pipe chase that went up through the attic. The owner was out of town at the time, however it was the same contractor who had the fire in 1985. The insurance company paid \$44,000 for this fire.

On November 21, 1989 a lady reported a fire in her basement. During the investigation of this fire, it was discovered that she rented the house from our upstanding building contractor. The fire started in the furnace area and led up the pipe chase to the roof. Further probing showed that the chimney pipe had been unscrewed, pull apart, and put back without the screws.

Fire fighters knew there had been screws there before because one of the fire fighters was also the furnace man that did the installation. Red flags flew all over this fire. The owner was found at a local coffee shop and showed no signs of surprise that there was a fire. He said that the thermo coupling was bad and had been replaced a week before the fire. During this time the insurance company came to the scene since this would be the second claim for this individual.

In an interview with the renter, she said she had just left the house a short time before and had returned for a forgotten item. On entering the house she thought she had heard a noise in the basement. When she started down the stairs, she smelled smoke and immediately turned around and went to her mother's house a few blocks away and reported the fire.

In the meantime, her husband grabbed a fire extinguisher and attempted to extinguish the fire. Since he could not put the fire out he exited the building. In talking to these renters, both of them had noticed the back door ajar when they were in the house and they knew it had been locked. Further investigation by the insurance company revealed that the chimney pipe had a residue on the inside. This pipe was sent to be analyzed and it was found to have concentrations of toluene on the inside.

While the investigation continued, one week later the same lady renter came to the fire department and said she smelled propane in her basement while she was picking up some of her belongings. She said that a propane heater was set up in the basement to prevent the water pipes from freezing and that one of the tanks was leaking.

(Sidney Arson Continued)

The fire marshal drove to the scene and noticed the owner - contractor's pickup was in the alley. As the fire marshal stepped out of his vehicle an explosion erupted in the house spewing ashes and insulation out of the hole in the roof from the previous fire. The fire marshal ran to the rear of the building where he found the owner with a surprised look on his face. He claimed he was just walking in the back door when an explosion blew him back out of the house.

After the small fire was put out, a propane heater with a 20 pound cylinder approximately one - third full was discovered. This caused the large cylinder to vent causing the explosion. Although the owner claimed it an accident of stupidity, it was determined it was arson by design.

Six months later the owner/contractor was charged with two counts of arson. He was arrested in Billings, while trying to file a claim on the fire property and on his way out of the State. After pleading not guilty he was out of jail on bond. He hired a prestigious law firm in Billings for his defense. In March 1991, this individual appeared in court and pled guilty under the Alfred Plea. This meant that the evidence against him makes him look guilty and in pleading guilty, he hopes for a lesser sentence.

On April 29, 1991 he appeared in court for sentencing. He received 10 years suspended, \$5000 fine (to go to the fire department for investigative tools), \$1098 for fire fighting costs, \$2525 for damages to renter's personal belongings, no drugs or alcohol, must submit to drug or alcohol testing at the parole officer's request and

break no local, state or federal laws. All monies must be paid within 5 years at no less than \$200 a month.

Lessons learned from these events:

1. Investigate all fires no matter how upstanding the people are.
2. Close work with law enforcement, insurance companies and attorneys are a necessity.
3. Always do a background check of suspects. This arsonist had three previous felony convictions. All of them had to do with making a fast buck. After all is said and done, make sure your community understands that you as a fire department, will aggressively pursue all fire causes to help put a stop to arson.

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## FIRE BREAKS

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MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF STATE LANDS

Fire Management  
Bureau



Forestry  
Division

### WILDLAND NEWS & VIEWS

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## NATIONAL WILDLAND FIREFIGHTERS MEMORIAL DEDICATION

The formal dedication ceremony for the National Wildland Firefighters Memorial was held on May 8, 1991 at the Aerial Fire Depot at the Missoula International Airport. The Firefighter's Memorial itself is patterned after the National Vietnam War Memorial in Washington, D.C. It is an outdoor low rock wall within a grass slope surrounded by trees. A plaque on the wall identifies the memorial in recognition of all local, state and federal wildland firefighters who have perished in wildland fires. Since 1977, 226 firefighters have died fighting wildland fires across the United States. The Firefighter's Memorial was financed almost entirely from individual private donations and will be open to the public yearlong.

Over 700 people attended the solemn, impressive ceremony. Included in those who attended were several family members of the 13 firefighters who perished in the August 1949 Mann Gulch Fire on the Helena National Forest.

In recognition of the day and the event Montana Governor Stan Stephens also proclaimed the day as Montana Wildland Firefighter Day in recognition of all Montana Firefighters throughout the state

who have committed their time and efforts in protecting the natural resources of the state to wildfire.



NATIONAL WILDLAND  
FIREFIGHTER MEMORIAL

## NATIONAL FIRE FORCES MOBILIZATION ACT

The National Fire Forces Mobilization Act is a bill that was passed last year in Washington D.C. to provide funding for the purpose of improving the abilities of rural fire organizations to cope with wildfires. The money would be administered through the Department of State Lands; half would go to DSL and half to rural fire organizations on a matching-funds basis (similar to RCFP funds.)



The Act was passed, but no funding was allocated. However, the Act allows for annual funding of up to \$70 million nationally. The National Association of State Foresters (NASF) has placed funding of this act as one of their top priorities for this year.

The drive to obtain funding for this Act has gained a great deal of momentum in Washington, D.C. Some individuals and organizations in Montana have sent letters to our Congressmen and Senators in support of this act and urging them to push for full funding. However, many have not. The more support our representatives receive from fire organizations in this state, the harder they are likely to work to obtain funding for this bill. It could mean a minimum of \$100,000 and up to \$750,000 for rural fire organizations in Montana if funded at the full level; this is money earmarked specifically for programs in rural fire organizations.

It is still not too late to write our Congressmen and Senators, and it is imperative that we show our support NOW, and show it strongly. They need to be reminded of how far our limited resources continue to be stretched year after year, and how important funding of this bill is to rural firefighting forces in Montana. If a spokesperson from your organization has not yet contacted our representatives, you are urged to do so as soon as possible. The addresses to send letters of support to are:

Sen. Conrad Burns  
Sen. Max Baucus  
United States Senate  
Washington, D. C. 20510

Rep. Pat Williams  
Rep. Ron Marlenee  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D. C. 20515

## FROM THE STATE COORDINATION CENTER

The "State Corner" at the Northern Rockies Coordination Center opened up for the season on May 1. This is the second year DSL is co-located with the U.S. Forest Service in the Regional Coordination Center at the Aerial Fire Depot in Missoula. While most of Montana has been experiencing a wet Spring, Year to date figures show that 126 fires have resulted in over 5,000 acres being burnt.

DSL has been working closely with representatives from various organizations including the Montana Fire Chiefs Association, the County Firewardens Association, and the Northern Rockies Coordinating Group, to fine-tune guidelines used for mobilizing county and local resources on wildfires. This includes fires both within Montana and in other states. It is hoped that as a result, the whole process of dispatch and mobilization will be smoother and will be equitable and fair. Training standards for wildfires have also been updated. For 1991, DSL's "Basic Wildland Firefighter" (or the equivalent, such as the standard "S" and "I" courses the U.S. Forest Service uses) will meet the requirements for State and Federal fires.

If you have any questions about dispatch and mobilization, or wish to be available for dispatch to wildfires outside of your area, contact your local DSL Office for further information call me at 542-4222.

Kelly R. Close  
Rural Fire Coordinator  
Fire Management Bureau

## FOAM CACHES

Class A foams for wildland firefighting and structure protection have become increasingly popular as a tool in fighting wildland fires. The benefits of foam application are numerous and the use of Class A foam has become an accepted practice. There are currently many different methods of mixing foam for use in the field. They vary from the simple to the complex, but all require the foam concentrate.

Montana DSL has recognized the need to have caches of foam stored strategically throughout the state to provide an immediate resource to local fire departments. It would be both impractical and extremely expensive for every local fire department to have such a cache within their fire department.

There are currently 6 foam caches located at the Land Offices of DSL throughout Montana. Those locations include Miles City, Lewistown, Billings, Helena, Kalispell, and Missoula. This foam is available to local fire departments for their use on a cost recovery basis. The State bid process was used to solicit prices for foam from various suppliers and then payment is made directly to the supplier. The current price per 5 gallons of foam is \$45.90 per container. The typical cache has between 200 and 300 gallons of foam in 5 gallon containers available for immediate delivery to local emergencies. Additional foam can be made available using available resources throughout Montana and the Region.

## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

The following is a brief summary of legislation that impacts the Department of State Lands Fire Management Programs that was passed by the 1991 legislature.

Three new counties have been added to the State-County Coop program. They are Lake, Lincoln, and Sanders counties. We look forward to working closely with these new counties in a variety of areas such as wildland fire training, mobilization, and equipment development, and continuing to strengthen our working relationships with the other 49 counties in the program.

DSL will be providing direct fire protection for an additional 58,000 acres of Federal land in the Dillon area. This block of land is known as Block V. Block V provides for an exchange of services that the U.S. Forest currently provides for DSL on state and private forest lands.

Forest fire protection fees for private landowners within Montana will be increased by state statute to meet the one-third funding formula of the costs associated with fire protection. The actual costs of fee increases will vary based upon minimum lot sizes and actual acreage.

House Joint Resolution 36 requested that the Montana fire services address current issues that they are facing with regard to wildland urban interface and return to the next legislature with possible solutions.

## **DSL FIRE CHIEF RECEIVES AWARDS**

Tim Murphy, Fire Chief of the Montana Department of State Lands for the past 5 years, was recently recognized for his efforts. On Tuesday, May 7, 1991, Governor Stan Stephens presented Tim with the Governor's Award for Excellence in State Government. On May 8, George Leonard, Associate Chief of the U.S. Forest Service, presented Tim with an award from the Chief of the U.S. Forest Service and the President of the National Association of State Foresters for his outstanding service in Fire Management. Congratulations to DSL Fire Chief Tim Murphy.

## **KEEP MONTANA GREEN**

KMG (Keep Montana Green) is a private non-profit association dedicated to the prevention of wildland fires. Its membership represents a diverse makeup of both the private and public sector with the mission of public education as a tool in preventing wildfires. KMG is also an affiliate of the national organization KAG (Keep America Green.) The organization uses many different methods in promoting its message, including billboards, exhibits, public service announcements, and its annual KMG poster contest.

The Keep Montana Green Association has recently completed judging for its annual fire prevention poster contest. The poster contest was established in 1961 and is held in the spring of each year. The statewide poster contest gives school age children (1st thru 12th grade) an opportunity to learn about fire prevention and wildfire.

Ed Mathews, fire prevention section supervisor for DSL in Missoula, who serves as executive secretary for the Association, announced that KMG received over 3,200 posters at the six regional land offices of DSL. Each Land Office holds a regional contest and the winners from those contests are judged on a State level in Missoula. The top 16 posters then move on to the international contest and are judged against other state and provincial winners.

While all participants received certificates of participation, ribbons, plaques, and cash prizes were awarded to the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners in 5 separate divisions. Montana winners were evenly distributed throughout all geographic parts of Montana and age groups.

### **1991 KMG AWARD WINNERS**

#### **GRAND AWARD WINNER**

**MARVIN BELCOURT**  
Box Elder School

#### **SENIOR DIVISION**

**1ST PLACE**  
**ANDREW SHORS**  
Cut Bank High School

**2nd PLACE**  
**JAMES C. DOVER**  
Victor School

**3RD PLACE**  
**LESLEY CISLO**  
Cascade High School

**JUNIOR DIVISION**  
**1ST PLACE**  
**JESSI FULTZ**  
Cascade High School



2ND PLACE  
ALIDA GLIDDEN  
Eureka Jr. High

3RD PLACE  
SETH BERROW  
Cascade School

2ND PLACE  
WILLE RIGLER  
Gardiner Jr. High School

3RD PLACE  
KEVIN RONNING  
Froid High

#### INTERMEDIATE DIVISION

1ST PLACE  
MARTHA OSTENDORF  
Spring Creek School  
Powderville, MT

2ND PLACE  
CHRISTOPHER BURTCH  
Creston School  
Kalispell, MT

3RD PLACE  
JUSTINE SHERRY  
Alberton School

#### PRIMARY DIVISION

1ST PLACE  
HAL WENTE  
Cottonwood School  
Lewistown, MT

2ND PLACE  
STEVIE GORE  
Cottonwood School  
Lewistown, MT

3RD PLACE  
AMY LORENZ  
Rau Elementary  
Sidney, MT

#### SPECIAL EDUCATION

1ST PLACE  
NARDIN SCHNEIDER  
Froid High

Many local Montana fire departments are currently involved in the program in conjunction with KMG. It is an excellent opportunity to bring together all agencies who desire to present a unified prevention message to the youth of our communities. KMG encourages local fire departments to become involved with the 1992 poster contest next Spring and give special thanks to those who have worked on wildland prevention programs in the past.



Ray Lundby, Rural Fire Coordinator of the Eastern Land Office of DSL, explains the use of DSL fire equipment stationed in Carter County. During the training, several of the firefighters took the wildland firefighter physical fitness test. Of the 14 who took the step test, 11 scored a 45 or higher, with the top score shared between a 51 year old and a 23 year old firefighter.

## Fire Training Section...



Business Phone 761-7885  
Fax Phone 453-6769  
State Computer Bulletin Board  
1(800) 962-1729

### Resource Center User Fee Invoices

Annual User Fee Invoices are being sent to all fire departments and organizations who use the Fire School's Emergency Services Resource Center. The fee is \$60 this year for a 28 member organization.

Many new videos and other items have been added to this year's inventory. New catalogs are being printed and will be mailed upon receipt of the fee.

A new monthly video magazine called "Emergency Medical Update" has also been added. These videos offer actual footage and training for first responders and EMT's. The Billings Fire Department has renewed the "American Heat" series for us. A few other new titles are: Forcible Entry; Flashover; Phoenix Ear Study; Emergency Childbirth; Burn Care; Class A Foam Demo and Fire Fighter 1 Tactics. New Hazardous Material Instructor Kits are also available.

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**Whenever there is danger, there lurks opportunity. Whenever there is opportunity, there lurks danger. The two are inseparable.**

### Does your standpipes work?

The Philadelphia Fire Department recently lost three fire fighters and millions in property damage in buildings equipped with standpipes. Among the problems encountered in suppressing the fire were standpipe valves being improperly adjusted. Fire fighters could not get enough water from the system to be effective. The fire burned on until it encountered a floor with sprinklers, where it was extinguished.

In at least one community where the fire department surveyed existing standpipe systems, members were shocked to find how many failed! What is the situation in buildings your department protects? When you open a standpipe valve, will water come out? The time to check is now, before an incident. FTS has information on how you can test such systems in your community.

### Fighting Fires In Sprinklered Buildings

Factory Mutual is sponsoring two Courses called, "Fighting Fires in Sprinklered Buildings." They will be held July 22 in Great Falls and July 23 in Billings. Call FTS for more details.

# Quality Command

How can you tell when the Incident Commander (IC) is doing a quality job?

Interesting question. A former fire chief offered the following checklist to evaluate performance. Contact FTS with your comments.

## **1. Is the IC providing strategic and tactical direction?**

The IC, in very nearly all cases, cannot carry out leadership responsibilities while involved with tactics.

## **2. Does the IC know the location of all members at all times?**

Members must be organized in crews with leaders. The IC must be able to account for each crew at all times.

## **3. Does the IC know what tactical activity members are involved with at all times?**

The IC must track the crews movement and assignments in order assure their safety and focus their activities toward the desired outcome.

## **4. Can the IC communicate immediately with everyone on the incident scene?**

Every crew leader must have a means of communicating with the IC to assure safety, receive assignments and provide immediate feedback to the IC.

## **5. If a member suffers an immobilizing injury, will the IC know about the members condition in a timely manner?**

A procedure for emergency radio traffic must be in place. The 5 step communications process should be used for incident communications.

## **6. If a member suffers an immobilizing injury, will the IC be able to treat the member and get him/her away from the scene in a timely manor?**

A rapid response crew should be standing by. Resources with medical capability should be standing by. The IC should have a plan for transportation of those injured which allows arrival in the ER within 1 hour of injury.

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## Positions Available

Havre Fire Department is accepting applications for fire fighter. No positions are available presently. Maintaining hiring list. More info available 265-6511

Denver Regional Council is testing for Fire Fighters August 21 - 23. Apply for testing before July 26 at 2480 Est 26th Ave; Suite 200B; Denver, Colorado

Fire Fighter - Wenatchee, Washington; \$2374 Monthly. Apply before July 11; 136 South Chelan, Wenatchee, Washington.

Chief Administrative Officer; Woodburn Fire District. Application packets available from Woodburn Fire District; 1776 Newberg Highway, Woodburn, Oregon 97071.

Fire Chief, Devils Lake Fire Department. Send resume to Devils Lake F.D. @ Stephen Lovejoy, 2600 NE Highway 101, Lincoln City, Oregon 97367



# **Public Fire Safety Workshop**

September 21 & 22, 1991

## **Fire Training School - Great Falls**

The workshop is designed to give fire fighters the skills needed to teach children fire safety in their own communities. It's **For the Children**. There is a Montana "Show and Tell" scheduled for Saturday evening. This is an opportunity to show other fire personnel how your department teaches fire safety and prevention. If your department teaches fire safety, this is one weekend you don't want to miss. Registration Fee is \$40, includes a Spaghetti Dinner Saturday evening.

Saturday September 21 Topics to be covered: Teaching Fire Safety with puppets and robots; Teachers Perspective of Fire Safety Education; Fire Safety with the Phoenix Clowns (Tiller and Ranger); Montana Show and Tell.

We would encourage all participants to bring something to show off during the evening session.

Sunday September 22 Juvenile Firesetter counseling; Learn Not To Burn; Fire Behavior Teaching Ideas; and Table Top Chemistry of Fire Demonstration.

Call the Fire School to register and for more information.

## **Haz Mats Awareness Instructor Training**

The State Emergency Response Commission is offering a "hand off" course for instructors who are interested in teaching Hazardous Materials Awareness for First Responders. Applications are available from your local DES Coordinator or can be found in the rear of the DES Training Calendar. The instructor training will focus on course content and include no instructional skills training. Therefore applicants should have had instructor training prior to attending the "hand off" course. All classes will run from 9 AM to 3 PM. See the training schedule at the end of this newsletter for the dates and locations.

## Volunteer Incentive Program (VIP)

Only Minnesota, Arizona and Ohio had more participants than Montana in the National Fire Academy's VIP Program.

Recent graduates are:

Kelly Close, Missoula Rural  
Ray Erickson, Florence Rural  
Jay Gasvoda, Corvallis Rural  
Rick Hartz, Dillon  
James Krogman, Thompson Falls  
Noah Martinez, Geraldine  
Tony Novak, West Helena Valley  
Steve Stanhope, Baker

The following dates are available for individuals interested in attending these VIP classes: Fire Command Operations:

Oct.13-19, 1991  
Feb.23-29, 1992  
Jul.12-18, 1992  
Aug.30-Sept.5, 1992

Community Fire Protection:

Jan.19-25, 1992  
Mar.22-28, 1992  
Aug.23-29, 1992

Contact FTS if you are interested in attending one of these VIP courses.

## Warning Fire Service Yearbook

We have received several calls that individuals are selling advertising space in a so-called Fire Service Yearbook. Profits from the sale of this book are said to go to training classes. We have no knowledge of this book and would like to caution fire departments who receive calls concerning it. We were told that they solicit advertising from businesses and indicate that the local fire department endorses this publication.

## Vanguard Heat Detector To Pay For Misleading Advertising

A federal court has ordered the maker of Vanguard heat detectors to pay over \$7 million and perhaps as much as \$50 million, to compensate consumers for misleading advertising claims it has made about the devices.

The Federal Trade Commission ruled in April 1986 that Figgie International Inc. misrepresented to consumers that heat detectors - which sold for an average of \$170 - could give them enough advance warning to escape safely in most residential fires. The company also misrepresented that a combined system of heat detectors and smoke detectors could provide significantly greater warning than smoke detectors alone.

The order was issued by the U.S. District Court for the Central District of California, in Los Angeles. Figgie is based in Richmond, Virginia.

Consumers who purchased a Vanguard heat detector from May 17, 1980 thru July 20, 1987 should send proof of purchase to Department J ; Federal Trade Commission; 11000 Wilshire Boulevard; Suite 13209; Los Angeles, California 90024.

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Innovators and creative geniuses cannot be reared in schools. They are precisely the people who defy what the school has taught them.



# Fine Against Seattle Fire Department Reduced

A fine against the Seattle Fire Department for safety violations resulting in the death of a fire fighter was reduced from \$102,400 to \$15,000 in a settlement between the Fire Department and the Washington State Department of Labor and Industries.

Fire Fighter Matthew Johnson was killed while fighting an arson blaze September 9, 1989, at a Seattle lumber company. Following investigation, these fines were proposed:

- \* \$50,000 for alleged willful failure to conduct a prompt search and rescue effort. The fine was dropped in the settlement because it "dovetails" with the second charge.

- \* \$50,000 for alleged willful failure to use proper accounting procedures for personnel during the fire. The charge was reduced from willful to serious and the fine dropped to \$15,000.

- \* \$24,000 for serious violations because of lack of training on self-contained breathing apparatus. After review of the fire department's training materials, the charge was dropped.

The settlement requires the fire department to maintain a new accounting procedure for personnel during fires, and to establish a safety officer position with the rank of battalion chief within the next year.

A lawsuit brought by the widow and son of the fire fighter is still pending against

the City. The suit charges the Department with negligence and "willful and/or intentional infliction of harm."

(Source: March 13, 1991, Occupational Safety and Health Reporter)

# Legislation Introduced Allowing Local Fire Department Inspection of Government Facilities

Legislation allowing local fire fighters to inspect government facilities for potential hazards before an incident occurs has been introduced by Rep. Jan Meyers (R-KS).

The Enclave Fire Protection Act of 1991 (HR1424) would enable local fire departments to conduct pre-incident planning for all properties the departments are responsible for protecting, according to a release from Meyers. Meyers first introduced the bill in the 101st Congress and IAFC supports it.

Enclaves, property owned by federal, state or local governments are located within or adjacent to city boundaries, include federal buildings, state universities and county courthouses. Meyers said, local fire departments do not have authority to inspect such facilities.

HR 1424 was prompted by the 1988 Kansas City disaster that killed six fire fighters. The fire fighters were unaware of the presence of explosives at a highway construction site, and local authorities did not have the authority to inspect the site. The Fire Fighters Safety Study Act, signed into law last year, was also sponsored by Meyers.



## Volunteer Association News by Toni Bell

The 1991 Volunteer Firefighter's Annual Convention was held in Glasgow June 5 - 8. The 1992 Convention will be in Frenchtown, June 17 - 20 1992 with Larry Davis as the featured speaker.

The new Officers of the Volunteer Firefighter's Association are: President Tom Wood (Libby); Vice-Pres. Carus Kappen (South Kalispell); Sec.-Treas. Toni Bell (Shepherd); and District VP's Bob Sundy (Big Fork), Brad Mohn (Hamilton), Pat Hultin (Fort Benton), Kraig Hansen (Harlem), Kelly Gebhardt (Roundup), Paul Trudell (Fairview), and Gerald Job (Wibaux).

Please send Toni your correct address, especially if you haven't received Association information for the last six months. Association information such as minutes, newsletter etc. will be sent to those departments who have paid their 1991 dues. If you haven't paid, please do so.

Updating By-Laws will be an upcoming item. They will be voted on at next year's Convention. Also, you are eligible for group insurance rates and dividend insurance only if your department is an Association member.

Toni has a supply of Association patches on hand, they are \$5 each. Jackets and T shirts can also be ordered.

News Report from the Montana State Volunteer Firefighter's Association; Box 80166, Billings, MT 59108; 947-3255.

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Learn from the mistakes of others. You can't live long enough to make them all yourself.

## Associations...

by Larry McCann

Do you belong to associations which help your department?

Local, state associations work hard to promote the interest of the fire service in this State, but fire service delivery is also impacted by national and regional activities.

What do you get by membership in regional and national organizations?

1. Access to volumes of knowledge on all fire service related subjects.

- |                     |                     |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| a. Fire Suppression | f. Communications   |
| b. Personnel        | g. Training         |
| c. Computer System  | h. Public Education |
| d. Fire Prevention  | i. Wildland Fire    |
| e. Haz Mats         | j. Management       |

2. A vehicle to provide input into regional and national laws and regulations. The input may be supportive to increase or develop funding for fire departments. The input may be against the rule or regulation that impacts your department negatively.

3. The latest facts on the fire service problems are identified or what new technology is developed.

4. Identification of resources for every aspect of the fire service. What works or what does not work. The fire service is made up of many departments and thousands of individuals. If your department has a problem, 10 to 1 someone has a solution. If not a solution at least experience in similar activities that did or did not work.

(Continued on the next page)

The only way we in the fire service can impact the laws and regulations which govern us is through organization.

The only way we can truly reduce property destruction and deaths caused by fire is through organization.

To become a member of a national or regional fire service organization, please contact Larry McCann at 657-8422.

A membership package for the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC) will be sent you. Membership in the IAFC will also provide you membership in the Western Fire Chiefs Association.

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## **Around the State**

Terry Phillips from the Lewistown Fire Department has been appointed as Lewistown's new Fire Chief.

William Good has been appointed the new Administrator of the Disaster and Emergency Services Division.

Ray Blehm's Nevada phone (702)687-4290.

Collegiate Fire Fighters Wanted  
Chief Tom Krigma, Rae Fire District, is interested in recruiting fire fighters who may be attending MSU this Fall. If interested give him a call.

Dave Fisher, Butte is trying to plan a reunion of fire service "old-timers." If interested give him a call, 782-8858.

## **Hepatitis Vaccination Must Be Offered**

Emergency response managers need to be reminded of OSHA's hepatitis B (HBV) vaccine requirement that has been in effect since October 1990. This ruling requires that all personnel (paid or volunteer) who are at risk of exposure to blood at least once a month must be offered HBV vaccinations at no cost to the employee.

Some EMS services reportedly have been cited by OSHA for failure to comply. Fines for failure to comply are stiff, so those involved in EMS administration are urged to contact their OSHA office for full details of the requirement. Be aware that vaccine price varies widely depending on supplier and agency discounts.

(Source: March AAOS Emergency Services Newsletter.)

## **Certification Notices**

Recertification notices have been sent out to individuals in the past. Many of these notices are being returned. As of August 1, FTS will send notices of recertification to the chief of the fire department. FTS solicits your comments on this issue.

## ITEMS FOR SALE

- 36 Sections of 2 1/2" Hose
- 92 Sections of 3" Hose (2 1/2" couplings)
- 1 Breathing Air Compressor System:  
5 cfm-3600 PSI & 7 cascade cylinders
- 1 Portable hose rack
- 5 2 1/2" 160gpm nozzles
- 1 2 1/2" 350gpm master stream nozzle
- 1 2 1/2" 500gpm master stream nozzle
- 8 1 1/2" brass fog nozzles
- 1 45' Aluminum 3 section extension ladder
- 1 GE Master PE Portable radio/vehicle mount
- 4 EM-ZOO ear mikes
- 1 Motorola lowband mobile radio
- 1 Motorola lowband base radio
- 1 45 cf 1800 psi aluminum SCBA cylinder
- 7 45 cf 1800 psi steel SCBA cylinder
- 1 6" FM x 2 1/2" FM x 2 1/2" FM siamese/clappers
- 1 6" FM x 2 1/2" FM x 2 1/2" FM gated siamese
- 1 4 1/2" FM x 2 1/2" M x 2 1/2" M gated wye
- 1 4 1/2" FM x 2 1/2" M x 2 1/2" M  
siamese/clappers
- 2 2 1/2" M x 2 1/2" FM x 2 1/2" FM  
siamese/clappers
- 1 2 1/2" M x 2 1/2" FM x 2 1/2" FM siamese
- 2 2 1/2" FM x 1 1/2" M x 1 1/2" M gated wye
- 3 2 1/2" valves
- 1 6" FM x 5" FM pyrolife adapter (new)
- 1 6" FM x 2 1/2" FM adapter
- 1 5" FM x 4 1/2" FM adapter
- 1 5" FM x 5" FM adapter
- 1 4 1/2" FM x 2 1/2" FM adapter
- 1 6" soft suction hose
- 1 5" mounting plate (male)
- 1 6" mounting plate (male)
- 1 portable suction unit (needs battery)
- 1 6" Marshalltown gauge
- 1 set automobile ramps
- and miscellaneous boots and helmets, red lights,  
rearview mirrors and tire chains.

For more information contact: Havre Fire Dept.  
520 4th Street, Havre, MT 264-6511

Everyone thinks of changing the world,  
but no one thinks of changing himself.

### Survivor Detection System

Westinghouse Electronics has introduced the Survivor Detection System (SDS), a lifesaving device that locates victims who have been buried alive.

The SDS is an omni-directional, transportable device capable of sensing and locating activity in a collapsed structure. Disturbances made by a survivor's digging or pounding cause seismic vibrations that can be detected by one of the SDS's four sensors.

The seismic signal is then converted into audio output and a hard copy print-out for detection and location analysis. A unique, patented signal processing system within the device makes it capable of detecting buried survivors, even amid a high level of ambient noise.



THE CHANGING OF THE GUARD



# 1991 - 92 TRAINING SCHEDULE

It is important to pre-register for each of the following courses as minimum attendance has been established and must be met or the class will be canceled. NOTE: (NA-National Fire Academy Field Course); (FTS-Fire Training School located in Great Falls Vo-Tech Center; 2100 16th Avenue South); (EMS-Emergency Medical Services Bureau, 444-3895); (DES-Disaster & Emergency Services, call 444-6963 to register); (DOT-Department of Transportation); (DSL-Department of State Lands, call 542-4300 for info); (EENET-Emergency Education Network Satellite Programs; Galaxy 6, Transponder 10).

DATE	COURSE	LOCATION
<u>July</u>		
1	DES Haz Mats Railroad Emergency Response	Big Timber
8	DES Haz Mats Railroad Emergency Response	Laurel
9	DES Haz Mats Railroad Emergency Response	Billings
11	DES Haz Mats Railroad Emergency Response	Great Falls
12	DES Haz Mats Railroad Emergency Response	Great Falls
13	DES Haz Mats Railroad Emergency Response	Malmstrom AFB
16	Introduction To Fire Fighter I	Forsyth
17	Introduction To Fire Fighter I	Broadus
17-19	Montana Firemen's Assoc Convention	Miles City (Eagles)
18	Fire Fighter Certification Hearing	Miles City (Eagles)
20-21	Fire Fighter I Tactics	Sidney
20	Flammable Liquid Trailer Instructor Handoff	Conrad
21-25	Western Fire Chief's Conference	Portland, OR
22	Fighting Fires In Sprinklered Buildings	FTS - Great Falls
23	Fighting Fires In Sprinklered Buildings	EOC Room - Billings
23-25	DES Radiological Monitor Instructor	Bismarck, ND
27	Residential Sprinkler Trailer	Sheridan
30	Introduction To Fire Fighter I	Scobey
31	Introduction To Fire Fighter I	Circle
31	Haz Mats Awareness Instructor Handoff	Wolf Point
<u>August</u>		
1	Positive Pressure Ventilation	Culbertson
5	Haz Mats Awareness Instructor Handoff	Helena
6	Haz Mats Awareness Instructor Handoff	Butte
7-10	Residential Sprinkler Trailer	Livingston
14	Fire Attack	Roundup
14	EENET Haz Mat Exercise Program	9:00 AM - 1:30 PM
15	Introduction To Fire Fighter I	Hardin
15	Hazardous Materials Information	Augusta
19	Hose and Fire Streams	Warm Springs
20	Haz Mats Awareness Instructor Handoff	Lewistown
23	Haz Mats Awareness Instructor Handoff	Bozeman
27	Haz Mats Awareness Instructor Handoff	Miles City
28	Haz Mats Awareness Instructor Handoff	Glendive
28	EENET FEMA Emerg Resp Capabilities Demo	9:00 AM - 1:30 PM

## September

5	Haz Mats Awareness Instructor Handoff	Havre
11	EENET Using Long Range Sensing	9:00 AM - 1:30 PM
11-12	Creative Financing	Billings
11-12	Developing Volunteer Resources	Billings
14-15	FF Safety/Survival Co Officer's Responsibility	Helena Valley
14-15	Instructor Assoc Fall Meeting	Billings
18	EENET Distance Learning	11:00 AM - 1:30 PM
21-22	Fire Safety Workshop With Phoenix Clowns	FTS - Great Falls
23	Haz Mats Awareness Instructor Handoff	Great Falls
25	EENET FEMA Earthquake Mitigation Training	Noon - 2:00 PM
27-28	Fire Chief's Conference with Jack Snook (Recruiting, Retaining, Motivating Quality Personnel)	Sheraton - Great Falls

## October

16	Haz Mats Awareness Instructor Handoff	Missoula
30	EENET Wildfire Strikes Home & Issues	9:00 AM - 1:30 PM

## November

6	EENET How Effective Is Your Fire Prev Program	9:00 AM - 1:30 PM
17-22	LEA Arson Investigation	Bozeman
20	EENET Clandestine Drug Labs For 1st Responders	9:00 AM - 1:30 PM

## December

4	EENET Infection Control For Fire Personnel	9:00 AM - 1:30 PM
4	Haz Mats Awareness Instructor Handoff	Kalispell
5	Haz Mats Awareness Instructor Handoff	Shelby
11 & 12	EENET DOT Haz Mats Transportation Incidents	9:00 AM - 2:00 PM

## 1992

## January

4 - 5	NA Fire Fighter Safety & Survival	Wolf Point
11-12	New Chiefs Course	FTS-Great Falls

## April

4 - 5	NFA Managing Company Tactical Operations	Florence
4 - 5	NFA Managing Company Tactic Decision Making	Billings
25-26	NFA Managing Company Tactic Decision Making	Bozeman
25-26	NFA Managing Company Tactic Decision Making	Columbia Falls

***\*Make sure you register for each course. Please register with the various sponsoring agencies noted.  
For FTS and NFA Courses use the following form.***

### **--- REGISTRATION FORM ---**

Course: \_\_\_\_\_ Location/Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Soc Sec # \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Department \_\_\_\_\_ Daytime Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Return to: MSUES Fire Training School; 2100 16th Avenue South; Great Falls 59405-4997; Phone: 761-7885





FIRE GUARD NEWSLETTER  
MSUES Fire Training School  
2100 16th Avenue South  
Great Falls MT 59405-4997



BULK RATE